

4. (Amended) The sheet tobacco according to claim 1, wherein said tobacco powder layer has a binder content of not greater than 15% by weight with respect to the tobacco powder material.

B 5. (Amended) The sheet tobacco according to claim 1, wherein the binder is used to bind the tobacco powder material and also to bind together the plant fibers of at least one of said carrier layer and said cover layer.

6. (Amended) The sheet tobacco according to claim 1, wherein the binder contains cornstarch.

7. (Amended) The sheet tobacco according to claim 1, further comprising a tobacco particle layer sandwiched between said tobacco powder layer and said carrier layer or between said cover layer and said tobacco powder layer, said tobacco particle layer containing particles of tobacco stems and laminas.

8² 10. (Amended) The process according to claim 8, further comprising an intermediate step performed between said forming step and said binding step, to form a cover sheet of nonwoven plant fibers covering the other side of said tobacco powder layer.

B³ 12. (Amended) The process according to claim 8, wherein in said binding step, the plant fibers of at least one of said carrier sheet and said cover sheet are bound together by means of the binder.

B⁴ 15. (Amended) The process according to claim 13, further comprising an infiltrating step performed prior to said binding step, to cause a solvent for the binder to infiltrate into said tobacco powder layer admixed with the binder as well as into said carrier sheet.

B⁵ 17. (Amended) The process according to claim 8, further comprising a step of forming a tobacco particle layer or between said tobacco powder layer and said cover sheet, said tobacco particle layer containing particles of tobacco stems and laminas.

B⁶ 20. (Amended) The system according to claim 18, further comprising a downstream-side forming device arranged between said powder spreading device and said pressing machine, for forming a cover sheet of nonwoven plant fibers covering the tobacco powder layer.